

Cooler; cloudy; possibly showers.

A Rare Christmas-Gift Bargain

This morning we put on sale the balance of our **SMOKING JACKET STOCK** At these great holiday price reductions—

\$8 and \$10 SMOKING JACKETS\$5.00
\$12, \$15 and \$18 SMOKING JACKETS...\$8.75

Good-looking, pleasant-feeling Smoking Jackets in English Plaids, Scotch Flannels, Cashmeres, Velvets, etc. Nicely lined and trimmed. Some of them very gorgeous in this respect. Many youths' sizes in these lines.

The When

Open every evening until Christmas.

We Have Had Large Advance Orders from Selection Now Offered—
300 NEW PATTERN PERCALES—Spring Season, 1896.

We control in this territory Messrs. Garner & Co.'s 36-inch "HARMONY," 30-inch "STEEL RIVER," "100 LINNETS" and "PERSPIRATION PROOF DYED HARMONY PERCALES." These are the favored goods with all manufacturers, being absolutely fast colors and of the greatest novelty, both in design and colorings.

We show also leading styles in Arnold Mfg. Co.'s "SEA ISLAND," "WHITE STAR" and "IN DIAS." Windsor Mfg. Co.'s Percales, Cochoeco Percales, Imported Manchester Percales, etc. Orders solicited for immediate or future shipment, liberally dated, and at the lowest price offered from any market. Samples sent if requested.

MURPHY, HIBBEN & CO.

Importers, Jobbers Dry Goods, Notions, Etc.

Wholesale Exclusively.

AT THE BIG CLOSING-OUT SALE OF

PIANOS

Now going on at Smith & Nixon's old stand, and the Clearance Sale at Pearson's Music House, both stores are crowded with customers making early choice and taking advantage of the sale of

PIANOS REGARDLESS OF PRICE

Our competitors have already begun to cry out in alarm at the great success of the biggest Piano Sale ever inaugurated in the West.

\$145 For a new Upright Grand PIANO

All others in proportion. "No reserve." The finest line of Pianos in the world to make selections from, including the famous

STEINWAY, HAZELTON,

Smith & Nixon, Krakauer, Briggs, Blasius, Sterling and other Pianos.

PEARSON'S MUSIC HOUSE

82 and 84 North Pennsylvania St.

Open Evenings Until 9 p. m.

Holiday Excursions!

Christmas, 1895.
New Year, 1896.

BIG 4 ROUTE

ONE AND ONE-THIRD FARE
ROUND TRIP.

Tickets will be sold between all points on the Big Four Route, good going December 24, 25 and 31, 1895, and January 1, 1896; good returning until January 2, 1896, inclusive.

BIG FOUR ROUTE

TO
ATLANTA

AND RETURN.

\$14.25 ONLY For the Round Trip, **\$14.25**

For all passenger trains December 19th to 24th, inclusive. Good to return for ten days from date of sale, with privilege of stopover at Chattanooga on return trip. Call at Big Four offices. H. M. BRONSON, A. G. P. A.

C., H. & D. RY.

Holiday Rates

ONE AND ONE-THIRD FARE.

Tickets on sale Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. All good to return until Jan. 2. Tickets and information at Union Station and No. 2 West Washington street.

GEORGE W. HAYLER, D. P. A.

BUILDING AND LOAN.

The Mechanics' Mutual Savings and Loan Association,
Has moved its office to Room 503 Indiana Trust Co. Building.

Sunday Journal

By Mail, to Any Address,
Two Dollars Per Annum.

APPEAL TO CONGRESS

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND EVIDENTLY IN A STATE OF MILD ALARM.

He Sends Another Message to Congress, This Time Urging Legislation for Maintenance of Public Credit.

ADVISES PROMPT ACTION

BECAUSE OF THREATENED DEPLETION OF THE GOLD RESERVE.

But Suggests No Measure, Except a Renewal of Recommendations as to Reform of the Currency.

SENATORS DO NOT LIKE IT

HAWLEY SAYS THE PRESIDENT HAS A BULL-RUN PANIC.

Cullom Thinks It is an Effort on the Part of Cleveland to Offset His Venezuelan Message.

TWO CABINET MEETINGS

THE APPEAL FOLLOWS A DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

No Action Yet Taken by Secretary Herbert Regarding the Movements of the North Atlantic Squadron.

THE PROPOSED COMMISSION

WASHINGTON POST URGES THE APPOINTMENT OF HARRISON.

It Says the Country Will Be Pleased if the Venezuelan Boundary Matter Is Placed in His Hands.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The surprise of the day here was another message from President Cleveland, asking Congress to provide means for maintaining the public credit. It was not prepared till late this afternoon, but was received by the Senate before adjournment. The House was not in session at the time. The message follows:

"To the Congress:—In my last annual message the evils of our present financial system were plainly pointed out, and the causes and means of the depletion of government gold were explained. It was therein stated that, after all the efforts that had been made by the executive branch of the government to protect our gold reserve by the issuance of bonds, amounting to more than \$102,000,000, such reserve then amounted to but little more than \$79,000,000; that about \$15,000,000 had been withdrawn from such reserve during the month next previous to the date of that message, and that quite large withdrawals for shipment in the immediate future were predicted. The contingency then feared has reached us, and the withdrawal of gold since the communication referred to, and others that appear inevitable, threaten such a depletion in our government gold reserve as brings us face to face with the necessity of further action for its protection. This condition is intensified by the prevailing sentiment of the country, and the unusual apprehension and timidity in business circles.

"We are in the midst of another season of perplexity, caused by our dangerous and fatuous financial operations. These may be expected to recur with certainty as long as there is no amendment of the financial system. If in this particular instance our predicament is at all influenced by a recent insistence upon the position we should occupy in relation to certain questions concerning our foreign policy, further financial signal and imperative warning that even the patriotic sentiment of our people is not an adequate substitute for a sound financial policy.

"Of course there can be no doubt in any thoughtful mind as to the complete solvency of our Nation, nor can there be any just apprehension that the American people will be satisfied with less than the honest payment of our public obligations in the recognized money of the world. We should not overlook the fact, however, that aroused fear is unreasonable and must be taken into account in efforts to avert public loss and the sacrifice of our people's interests.

"The real and sensible cure for our recurring troubles can only be effected by a complete change in our financial system. Pending that the executive branch of the government will not permit its efforts to abandon its determination to use every means within its reach to maintain before the world our credit, nor will there be any hesitation in exhibiting its confidence in the resources of our country and the constant patriotism of our people.

"In view, however, of the peculiar situation now confronting us, I have ventured to herein express the earnest hope that the Congress, in default of the inauguration of a better system of finance, will not take a recess from its labors before it has, by legislative enactment and declaration, done something, not only to remind those apprehensive among our people that the resources of this government and a scrupulous regard for honest dealing afford a sure guarantee of unquestioned safety and soundness, but to reassure the world that with these factors and the patriotism of our citizens, the liability and determination of our Nation to meet in any circumstances every obligation it assumes do not admit of question. I ask at the hands of Congress such prompt aid as it alone has the power to give to prevent, in a time of fear and apprehension, any sacrifice of the people's interests and the public funds or the impairment of our public credit, in an effort by executive action to relieve the dangers of the present emergency.

"GROVER CLEVELAND.
Executive Mansion, Dec. 20."

NOT FAVORABLY RECEIVED.
Senate Promptly Adjourned After Hearing the Message Read.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—This has been a day of excitement and surprise in Washington. Events moved with rapidity and when the sun went down public men in all branches of the service were nervous and worn out from the tension. Reports came of

panic in securities throughout the country and here in Washington affairs moved at the rapid pace of a kaleidoscope. The House Venezuelan commission bill was amended in material respects by the Senate foreign relations committee, and then, by a sudden change in sentiment in the Senate was passed unanimously just as it came from the House; then an adjournment resolution from to-morrow over the holidays was passed by the Senate, only to be followed by an urgent message from the President, strongly advising prompt action for the maintenance of currency system and the maintenance of public credit.

At the other end of the avenue the President and his Cabinet received prompt advice of the course of events here and on the public exchanges. Mr. Cleveland held a solemn, something without precedent in recent years. Secretary Herbert, who returned from New York this afternoon, attended the second meeting for a brief time. All of the remaining members of the Cabinet were present, except Secretaries Lamont and Olney, who are out of town. The financial situation was the principal topic of consideration and the result of the meeting was repeated in the message sent to the Senate late in the afternoon, the body being kept in session by request from the White House for its reception.

The message was not favorably received in the Senate. Its summary adjournment on the motion of Senator Cockrell, one of the Democratic leaders, immediately after the conclusion of the reading of the message, was taken on the Republican side as a disposition not to consider the message seriously. Mr. Cockrell declined to define his motion or to discuss the question of the propriety of the suggestion. Senator Gorman, replying to a question, said that he did not want to criticize the President. Senator Jones, of Arkansas, when interviewed, simply remarked that he thought the President was a bit to-morrow. Senator Allison thought there would be a recess notwithstanding the message as the Senate had already passed a resolution to that effect before the message was received. Senator Hawley said it appeared to him as if the President was in a Bull Run panic, and Senators Teller and Cullom, when seen by a reporter, agreed that it looked as if the President was trying to offset the effect of his Venezuelan message and that it was beginning to look as if the President had concluded, from the favorable manner in which the Venezuelan message had been received, that Congress would follow any suggestion that he might make.

ACTED WITH DELIBERATION.
That the administration has not moved precipitately in the Venezuelan affair is evidenced by the fact, which has now become known, that Secretary Olney's famous letter defining the Monroe doctrine was considered for fully two months before being dispatched to Ambassador Bayard for delivery to Lord Salisbury. Moreover it is a fact that the President's message, while perhaps hastily reduced to exact form, really was the subject of deep consideration. The message was not sent until there is good reason to believe that the adverse response of Lord Salisbury to Secretary Olney's note was expected by the President. It is noted that the President's message is a distinct advance in our attitude on the letter of the Secretary, for, whereas the latter was confined to a declaration of a doctrine the former proposed action that went far beyond that point. It was this reason, without doubt, that caused the message to be most carefully considered for many months.

It is also true that there appears to have fallen under a misapprehension as to the purpose of the message, which may account for the attitude of some of the European newspapers who have received inspiration for their editorial articles from their foreign offices. For it is hardly to be expected that Washington has in many cases, and certainly in the cases of the representatives of European powers, informed their governments that President Cleveland's action was dictated purely by motives of political expediency, and was not intended to create a permanent precedent. It is not to be expected that the unanimity of support accorded the President by Congress, irrespective of party affiliations, has induced some of these observers of American institutions to qualify their first advice to their home governments.

Alfred S. Herbert returned to Washington from New York this afternoon, as yet he has taken no action respecting the orders to the North Atlantic Squadron, and so it will not sail to-morrow, as was intended, for the West Indies. The Secretary of the Navy has committed his departmental duties to his assistant, and has returned to Washington for the purpose Sunday, but the impression prevails that the fleet will not leave American waters immediately, and that the itinerary heretofore arranged will be modified materially before its departure. The subject makes it appear that if the commission to be appointed to ascertain the facts respecting the Venezuelan boundary finds it necessary to visit the country and to personally locate the line the work will consume much more time than is generally supposed. Outside of the voyage to Venezuela, which would consume not less than a month, to and fro, the journey through the wild interior of the country would be very difficult. With a small flying force of eight or ten men, the expedition would be a Uruan outpost, where the collision occurred, and which marks one end of the line claimed by Great Britain, could not be made in less than twenty-three days, so that if the commission is to make a proper investigation of the boundary, it will probably occupy almost six months.

Many names have been suggested for membership on the commission, but to-day's action in passing the House bill undoubtedly eliminates several of these names. Without regard to party politics, the names of Mr. Harrison, of the United States Supreme Court, and Mr. Partridge, of Vermont, formerly United States minister to Venezuela.

"APPOINT BENJ. HARRISON."

The "Post" Wants the Ex-President on the Venezuelan Commission.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The suggestion that ex-President Harrison is eminently fitted to be one of the commission to be appointed by President Cleveland to investigate the boundary of the Anglo-Venezuelan dispute is rapidly winning popular favor. The Post will say to-morrow in an editorial leader entitled "Appoint Benjamin Harrison."

"The Senate has passed the House bill providing for the appointment of a commission to determine the Anglo-Venezuelan boundary. We should have liked better to have seen the Senate take action yesterday morning—amendments which we consider as being in the interest of our national reputation—but that is neither here nor there now. The thing is done, and there is nothing left for us except to hear the Senate chairman's example extensively followed. When the American people have thus returned to their normal attitudes they will have time to make themselves acquainted with the merits of the Venezuelan dispute."

(Continued on Second Page.)

MARKETS DISTURBED

HEAVY FALL OF AMERICAN SECURITIES ON LONDON 'CHANGE.

Evidence that Shares Are Being Depressed to Injure the Credit of the United States.

LONDON PRESS COMMENTS

THE TIMES INDIRECTLY WARNS BRITONS AGAINST INVESTING,

And Says Mr. Cleveland Has Not Improved the Situation by Issuing a Second Message.

FOREIGN LOAN IMPOSSIBLE

THE NEWS DOES NOT THINK WE CAN GET GOLD ABROAD.

Rumor that the Rothschilds Will Immediately Withdraw 5,000,000 Pounds from America.

MILD PANIC AT NEW YORK

STOCKS SLUMP AND MONEY GOES UP, BUT DROPS AGAIN.

Flurry Due to the Situation in London and Engagements of Gold for Shipment To-morrow.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—As an effect of the publication here of cablegrams quoting the President's certain chambers of commerce in the United States as being opposed to war with Great Britain over the Venezuelan boundary question, there was a slightly better feeling among stock brokers early this morning. Soon after opening, however, there was a marked depression on the Stock Exchange. The Evening Standard referring to this depression said this afternoon: "The declines were in sympathy with a further heavy fall in American railway shares. American bonds were also freely offered, and unless these are taken up for New York the outlook is gloomy. There was extreme depression on the Manchester and Glasgow Stock Exchanges."

The Westminster Gazette referring to the condition of the stock market says that there was a financial panic in the fall in prices of American railroad shares. Continuing, the Westminster Gazette says: "Not only is the selling for the account of investors, but speculations for a drop have commenced in a considerable scale."

Baron Rothschild, in discussing the situation, said: "From a business point of view, opinions cannot differ. All I want is peace." The financial article in the Times says: "There were many instances to-day where the sales of American bonds could only be effected at 5 or 10 points below the nominal quotations. It is now evident that President Cleveland's message will be commercially and financially disastrous to America for a long time to come. It will be difficult to persuade the ordinary prudent investor that it is safe to invest money in a country where the responsible head of the executive can commit such a mistake and yet retain the confidence of the Nation he represents. The more immediate effect has been to restrict the credits on London hitherto enjoyed by New York houses, and to favor heavy gold exports. Everything points to a further pressure for money in New York and a premium on gold is looked for unless the political situation becomes less alarming. In the street the prices were still wider, the losses being: L. & N., 7 1/4; Lake Shore, 7 1/2; Pa. Ed., 6 1/2; New York Central, 5, and Southern Pacific, 4. In the active bonds the fall ranged from 1 1/2 to 5."

An editorial in the Chronicle (Liberal) says: "President Cleveland's message must induce Americans to think deeply over the needlessness of Tuesday's message. To our minds it is virtually a counterblast to the appeals to facts and not to prejudices, and presents real and not imaginary perils."

A NATURAL SEQUENCE.
An editorial in the Standard, Conservative, says: "The second message of a natural sequence of the first one gives the American people a singularly impressive illustration of the truth that diplomatic rashness inevitably entails monetary distress. Great Britain, as the center of the world's commerce, cannot escape injury during a panic in America and it is foolish to imagine that any artificial measures have been taken here to make the United States issues unsalable."

The Times says, in an editorial: "The situation President Cleveland's policy has created is developing with great rapidity, though probably not quite upon the lines he would prefer. His second message is almost as remarkable as the first. Whatever happens in the future he will always have the proud satisfaction of knowing that he twice astonished the world within a single week. With an air of the utmost innocence he takes note of the panic he himself originated in New York, and he would appropriate to the discussion of a calamity due to causes beyond human control. It is rather doubtful, from the terms of his message, whether he now wishes it to be understood that his Venezuelan policy was designed simply to give a lesson in finance, or whether he merely wishes to account a catastrophe which he did not foresee. Anyway, he forgets the wisdom of swapping horses in the middle of the stream. Neither President nor legislatures can produce confidence by a stroke of the pen and business men will not derive much consolation from his anxious appeal, while the opponents of his financial policy will distrust and resent the attempt to rush it under cover of an artificial foreign complication. We scarcely think he has improved his position by this second message. American churches to-morrow we may expect to hear the Senate chairman's example extensively followed. When the American people have thus returned to their normal attitudes they will have time to make themselves acquainted with the merits of the Venezuelan dispute."

The Standard's financial article says: "It is rumored that the Rothschilds have decided to immediately withdraw 5,000,000 from America. Whether this is true or not, the gravity of the situation is undisputed. Nobody fears war, but it is questioned whether the United States will be able to maintain the gold standard and whether the silver party will not become supreme and gold be driven to a heavy

WILL KEEP THEIR GOLD.

The Daily News's financial article gives as its opinion that a European loan to replenish the United States treasury is an impossibility at the present time. "So severe a panic in one department," says the Daily News, "as was witnessed in the American market to-day has not been experienced for years. The dream of restoring the currency and dividends in a depreciated currency has at least as much to do with the indiscriminate selling as has any political anxiety. Faith has been rudely shaken, and, whatever the outcome of the Venezuela troubles, it is feared that the work of restoration will be very slow. It is impossible to rely on quotations from the street. It would appear to be the height of folly for responsible holders to attempt further realizations upon a market in a condition which would only be warranted by an outbreak of war."

An editorial in the Daily News, commenting on the grave financial crisis in the United States, says: "President Cleveland has inflicted a heavier blow on his own country than upon ours. He will find that no bond issues or withdrawal of notes is so effectual as the assurance of peace. He must now be conscious of his mistake. If he is willing to repair it he will find in the British government and people every disposition to forget his hot words. Our New York correspondent believes that the commission will be so framed as to secure a perfect report. It would be a happy ending should the commission uphold the Schomburgk line. The earnest prayer of the Chairman of the American Senate will find an echo in the heart of every good man in the two sister lands."

The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Telegraph denies the report as far as Berlin is concerned, of the financial crisis in yesterday's Daily Telegraph, to the effect that negotiations are pending on the continent for a loan of \$50,000,000 to the United States government. The Daily Telegraph's Berlin correspondent says: "An eminent banker said to me that the idea was preposterous and that not one of the leading German banks would dream of supplying America with a penny for any purpose calculated to injure England."

The Telegraph's financial article says: "It is reported that other bankers besides the Rothschilds will withdraw their balances from America. It is estimated that the gold shipments from New York to-morrow will reach about \$2,000,000, the bulk going to Germany, where the money can be more profitably employed than here."

AMERICAN SECURITIES UNSALABLE.
NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The Evening Post's financial correspondent writes from London: "There was a severe panic in the Stock Exchange here to-day. All American securities, shares and bonds alike, are practically unsalable here. The panic to-day was not based so much on politics or on the war scare as on a predicted financial crisis in America. Five million more dollars in gold are said to be engaged for shipment from New York to-morrow, making \$10,000,000 in all, but this is not absolutely confirmed. It is, however, only a question of time when more gold will go. The Rothschilds, in consequence of the situation, are selling, but on behalf of investors, but on behalf of the rush of genuine holders to realize was enormous, the shock received by the tone of the President's message, and still more by its acceptance by the House of Representatives. The Rothschilds, however, experienced here. Other markets were flat, in sympathy with small business. It is rumored that \$3,000,000 in gold has been engaged by Rothschild for shipment from America. I cannot confirm this, but the report comes from a good quarter. Prices for the day were 7 1/2 to 8. The New York Bourse was flat to-day, out of sympathy with the reasons cited yesterday. The markets at Berlin were weak, but were the steadiest of the European markets."

PANIC ON 'CHANGE.

Stocks Slump and Money Goes Up, but Drops Again.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—This was a day of excitement in Wall street and matters for a time bore the resemblance of a panic. But this condition of affairs had not been unexpected, and in a measure the dealers had prepared themselves. Before the opening of business on the Stock Exchange it was announced that \$5,000,000 in gold would be sent out of the country, and later in the day the export of \$600,000 more was announced. This, together with the cable advices from London announcing extensive sales of American securities, and the tenor of the war news from all quarters, was responsible for the general feeling of uneasiness that prevailed even early in the day. The spirit of the market was to sell, and in the big exchanges this was done to an extent rarely before surpassed. In the Stock Exchange the sales for the day were \$7,750,000. New York Central, St. Paul, L. & N., Western & Missouri, Kansas & Texas preferred, Reading, Atchafalpa, Illinois Central and Canada Pacific were the principal sufferers by reason of their international listing.

As a result of the decline in stocks, the failure of the following firms was announced on the Stock Exchange during the day: Nichols, Frothingham & Co., Samuel Sands & Co., De Neuville & Co., L. A. Feldman, and B. Benton. With the fall in prices the banks called in all their loans, adding to the complications of the situation. New York money was loaned at very high interest to carry stocks, and in many instances renewals would be made under no conditions whatever. As the selling movement continued right up to the closing hour, with but slight change the galleries were crowded with speculators. The floor of the exchange was never a scene of greater excitement and sellers were almost fighting with each other to get at the buyers, who were largely in the minority. There was excitement, too, and plenty of it, on the street, and it is anticipated that to-morrow will be a repetition of to-day.

In regard to the situation Frederick D. Tappen, president of the Gallatin National Bank, who was chairman of the clearing-house loan committee during the last panic, said that at the present time the New York banks are all right and are ready to face any emergency that may arise. He added that the surplus reserve amounted to \$20,000,000, and that therefore there was no reason to fear the scarcity of money. Mr. Tappen pointed out, however, that while these conditions now prevail the situation is still a serious one, though likely to be allayed soon.

RUMORS OF A LOAN.
Regarding a cablegram to the effect that the United States was endeavoring to secure a loan of \$50,000,000 on the continent banking circles in Wall street do not take any stock. The rumor is ridiculous, and (Continued on Second Page.)

CONGRESS IS A UNIT

LIKE THE HOUSE, THE SENATE BACKS UP PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

It Unanimously Adopts the Bill Providing for a Commission to Determine the Venezuelan Boundary.

MANY STIRRING SPEECHES

WELL-KNOWN STATESMEN DISCUSS THE PROBABILITIES OF WAR.

Some Urge Preparations for Defense and Others Warn the British Blusterers to Beware.

FEW FEAR SERIOUS TROUBLE

BUT ALL FEEL THE COUNTRY WILL NOT SHRINK FROM ITS DUTY.

Senator Sherman Again Speaks Against Hanke and Mr. Lodge Scores the Manipulators of Stocks.

MILLS WANTS MORE REVENUE

AND PROPOSES A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RAISE IT.

Chandler Shoots Sarcasm at Cleveland and London Bankers—Allen's Coinage Resolution Passes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The United States Senate, by unanimous vote and without the formality of a roll call, to-day passed the bill already adopted by the House of Representatives empowering the President to appoint a commission to determine the Venezuela-British Guiana boundary. This action was the culmination of a debate adding a memorable page of congressional history. It was a day of notable speeches by notable men. The subject of war between the United States and Great Britain was the prevailing theme, which found expression in lofty, patriotic sentiments, in stirring appeals for preparation and defense, in graphic portrayals of the horrors of war, and at times in defiant warnings to the people across the water. By a singular coincidence the session which was to be marked by such vigorous debate and action was opened by an invocation of classic beauty from the blind chaplain of the Senate, breathing the spirit of good will between the two prominent English-speaking nations. This was specially followed by the adoption of Mr. Allen's somewhat ironical resolution, calling on the finance committee to investigate the needs of the unlimited coinage of silver.

At all times during the four hours of discussion the galleries were besieged by a eager crowd, whose patriotic impulses found frequent expression in applause, which the presiding officer sought vainly to suppress. The most notable utterances of the day were those of Senators Sherman, Teller, Mills, Lodge, Platt, Turpie, Chandler, Wiley, Caffrey, Call and Stewart, representing the three parties in the political contest, and yet in the main uniform in urging support of the President's vigorous assertion of the Monroe doctrine, and, if need be, action essential to maintaining the national dignity. There were strong expressions also against the panic in American stocks and securities which it was said the London bankers were seeking to bring about. Throughout the debate there was an undercurrent of feeling that while the country would not shrink from war if it must come, yet that such a calamity was not imminent. Shortly after 4 o'clock Mr. Morgan unexpectedly withdrew the amendments to the bill, leaving it in its original form. There was a demand for a roll call, as the sentiment of the Senate was clearly a unit, and by a loud voice vote the bill was passed without a dissenting vote. This completed the legislative enactment of the measure which, with the signature of the President, has the force and effect of a law. The passage of the bill was not, however, the only exciting event of the day, for at 4:30 o'clock the President's message urging the gravity of the situation and calling on Congress not to adjourn for the holidays until relief was afforded was presented to the Senate. Its reading was followed with close attention, but the Senators, absorbed with the stirring events of the debate, were ready to adjourn without immediate consideration of the message.

Brief Session of the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The session of the House to-day was purely a perfunctory affair. The Speaker was ready to announce the committee reports on the bill to adjourn for the holiday recess, but the fact that the Senate had not yet acted on the bill for the appointment of the Venezuelan commission forced the House, after waiting an hour and a half for the Senate to act, to adjourn until to-morrow. The only business transacted was the passage of a bill for the appointment of a commission to investigate the needs of the unlimited coinage of silver, and the presentation of a notice of contest against Representative Jones, of Virginia, on the ground of fraud.

PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL.

Features of the Debate That Preceded Adoption of the Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The blind chaplain of the Senate, Rev. Dr. Milburn, at the opening of the Senate proceedings to-day spoke of the Venezuelan resolution pending and the debate about to be rendered. His direct reference to the horrors of war, and the invocation against the shedding of blood between the two great English-speaking people were followed with breathless attention by the crowded galleries and with noticeable attention and respect by the Senators. The Senate directed that the invocation be read at length on the record—an unusual mark of respect.

A resolution was agreed to asking the Postmaster-General for information as to the alleged practice of fining postal employees.

The resolution of Mr. Potter, directing the Interstate-commerce Commission to inquire into the recent traffic agreement between various railway lines, was agreed to.

The resolution of Mr. Allen, for a coinage of silver to meet the exigencies of war, came over from yesterday and Mr. Allen himself, in a facetious vein, read with running comments, Mr. Chandler's